

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 11 being the independent claims. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5-10 and 15-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ukei, et al, U.S. Patent 6,239,603 (Ukei). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ukei does not teach or suggest every element of Applicants' independent claims 1 and 11. Ukei describes a monitor Test Element Group ("TEG") test circuit having a TEG control circuit 6 and a plurality of monitor test element groups (TEGs) 1-5 formed on a semiconductor chip 10. (Ukei, col. 4, lines 14-23; FIG. 1). TEG control circuit 6 receives test signals (T_0 , and T_1 to T_5) indicating which TEG or TEGs is to be monitored. (Ukei, col. 6, lines 31-34). Based on the values of the test signals, TEG control circuit 6 outputs a control signal which operates to enable one or more of the TEGs and disable the remaining TEGs. (Ukei, col. 4, line 44 - col. 5, line 11). The monitor TEG test results are provided to one or more external terminals 11, 12 by disabling the output of

the operational circuit using enable gates 8, 9. Thus, Ukei only describes the monitoring of one or more TEG. Ukei does not describe or suggest any further analysis of the monitor TEG test results or any further interaction with the monitor test circuit or operational circuit.

Thus, Ukei does not teach or suggest a method including “determining an analog value for the at least one process-dependent circuit parameters from the corresponding at least one digitized signal; wherein the process-dependent parameter is measured within a process monitor portion of the integrated circuit and the at least one determined analog value is utilized to correct for the process-dependent parameter in an operational portion of the integrated circuit,” as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Ukei does not teach or suggest a system including “means for determining an analog value for the at least one process-dependent circuit parameters from the corresponding at least one digitized signal; wherein the process-dependent parameter is measured within a process monitor portion of the integrated circuit and the at least one determined analog value is utilized to correct for the process-dependent parameter in an operational portion of the integrated circuit,” as recited in claim 11.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Ukei. Therefore, Applicants request favorable reconsideration of independent claims 1 and 11. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, claims 2-4 which depend from claim 1, and claims 12-14 which depend from claim 11 are patentable over Ukei. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

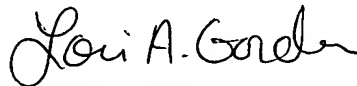
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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